

Community News - Issue 31

an information service from PACDG - the Presteigne Area Community Development Group

CONCERNS ABOUT PROPOSED CHANGES TO POWYS' LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN (LDP) AFFECTING PRESTEIGNE & SURROUNDING COUNTRYSIDE

(information provided by Mark Williams - thanks Mark !)

At a very late stage in the proceedings, Powys County Council have proposed Further Focussed Changes (FFCs) to the Local Development Plan (LDP) for Powys.

One FFC specifically affects the Kaye's site in Presteigne concerning the presumption of approval for retail planning applications (e.g. supermarket etc) which could have serious implications for our High Street.

Another proposed FFC concerns the designation of over a third of Powys (outside the National Park) as Local Search Areas within which there will be presumption of approval of planning applications for large wind and solar energy farms in Powys.

Whatever your views on the desirability of having a supermarket in Presteigne, or on the expansion of Renewable Energy (RE) sites in Powys, these FFCs do raise concerns about the 'nodding through' of applications for the building of such facilities, essentially avoiding local consultation.

PCC have brought in these proposals with barely-advertised consultation procedures undertaken in the shortest possible time. Those few who heard about them were able to make written 'representations' before a November 2016 deadline, and/or register their right to make verbal representations at public hearings starting in late March.

Details of the hearings can be found at www.powys.gov.uk/ldpexamination

Much, if not all of the above, may come as news to you, and the legal documents concerned may well prove impenetrable to the casual eye. However we would urge anyone concerned about these matters to make a small effort and go to Powys County Council's website to get a sense of what's at stake:

<http://www.powys.gov.uk/en/planning-building-control/local-development-plan/ldp-stages>

There you will find the Schedule of Further Focussed Changes: An Addendum to the Powys Local Development Plan Deposit Draft 2011-2026 (October 2016)

FFC 13, section 3.3.10 and FFC 72, section 4.7.7.A are the crucial sections, but please note that the time for personal representations has now passed.

Existing responses can be seen within a single document "Appendix 5b" on <http://www.powys.gov.uk/en/planning-building-control/local-development-plan/>. Council responses are contained in the "Addendum to Appendix 5b".

Finally, you may like to know that there is a **PUBLIC DEMONSTRATION** planned for **9.30am next Thursday the 23rd February at County Hall in Llandrindod** where the specific issue of the Renewable Energy FFCs are to be debated. If you want to attend you will be joining groups from across the county to protest against this potentially undemocratic legislation. **Further details can be had from jeff@highlandmoors.co.uk**

There's also a local action group which can provide more information. Contact: jenny@davidbellamy.co.uk

The Campaign for the Protection of Rural Wales has more details about the County Council's activities and how you may be affected by it at www.brecon-and-radnor-cprw.wales

If you have any questions on what's happening - or not happening - in our community, do let us know and we'll do our best to provide an answer, or at least point you in the right direction - simply email pacdg@icloud.com - or collar one of the Steering Committee in the street and tell us what's on your mind. You can also leave a written message at the Library for us - remember to include your name and a contact telephone number !

We're happy to help publicise community and charity activities and events (but only for events in the immediate Presteigne area) - email pacdg@icloud.com

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